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REMARKS

Claims 1-28 were pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 12 and 26 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 1 and 15 have been amended to include the features formerly recited in now-canceled claims 12 and 26, without introducing new matter and new issues. Entry of the Amendment is requested. Claims 1-11, 13-25, 27 and 28 would be pending upon entry of this Amendment, with claims 1 and 15 being in independent form.

The Office Action indicated that claims 12 and 26 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

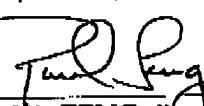
By this Amendment, claims 12 and 26 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer; and claims 1 and 15 have been amended to include the features formerly recited in now-canceled claims 12 and 26.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 15, and the claims depending therefrom, of the present application are now allowable. Applicant earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any required fees, and to credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,


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